

## Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale Held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

A Special meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

### Town Council:

Mayor	Doug Von Gausig
Vice Mayor	Jerry Wiley
Councilmember	Frank Sa (absent)
	Patricia Williams
	Vacancy

### Town Staff:

Town Manager	Gayle Mabery
Town Clerk	Joyce Driscoll
Town Attorney	Robert Pecharich
Finance Director	Coleen Gilboy
Police Chief	Pat Haynie

Others in Attendance: Dan Guernsey, Jim Elmer and Tim Wills.

**CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Von Gausig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and noted that all members were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.

**BUDGET WORKSESSION - A worksession on the Cemetery, Grants, Streets, Firemen's Relief & Pension (FR&P) and Developments portions of the fiscal year 2005-2006 budget.** Finance Director Gilboy presented the *Streets* budget, stating that Street funds are derived from the following sources:

1. Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF).
2. Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF).
3. Transfer from the General Fund. 1% of the 2.25% sales tax goes to the Streets Fund.

There was discussion regarding the origin and implementation of the 1% transfer. Street Fund expenses include the following items:

1. Transit contract (CATS)
2. Street improvements (chip sealing, sidewalks,

right of way, drainage, etc.)

3. Scenic Drive improvements (trust account).
4. Bent River Drive improvements (trust account).

The *Firemen's Relief Pension Fund* includes the following items:

1. State of Arizona transfers funds from insurance premiums to the fund.
2. Volunteers participate at no cost to the town or the volunteer.
3. Vesting schedule is maintained by Innes & Assoc.

There was discussion that the FRPF Board has the ability to change the carrier.

**Developments** funding includes the following items:

1. Mountain Gate
2. Verde Valley Ranch
3. Cliffrose
4. Future developments.

There was discussion regarding additional income and expenses due to developments.

**Cemetery** fund includes the following items:

1. There are 3500 sites (single and companion).
2. 356 plots are available (111 additional plots in "V" that are not yet available).
3. 54 cremations plots available.
4. Average of 1.5 plots are sold per month.

There was discussion that the City of Cottonwood is looking into opening a new cemetery, as their current one is full.

Perpetual care at the cemetery includes the following issues:

1. The need to build a cemetery building (have \$3500 in donations).

2. Consideration of building a columbarium (more plots per space, less maintenance, very professional).
3. Perpetual is forever, not just until plots are filled.

**Grants** includes the following issues:

1. Money for the town.
2. Types of grants (police overtime, bulletproof vests, etc.)
3. Little or no cost to the town.
4. Great projects (downtown, wastewater).

Grants recommendations:

1. Staff would like to research building a modular building at the cemetery.
2. Staff would like to research mausoleums for the cemetery.

There was discussion that the Council does not need to make a decision on these items tonight.

Finance Director Gilboy noted that vehicle repair and maintenance contracts with Clarkdale-Jerome School and the City of Cottonwood were moved to the Public Works Department.

Without objection, Item 6, the Fire Department worksession, was taken next.

**WORKSESSION – A worksession regarding staffing proposals for the Fire Department for fiscal year 2005-2006 budget.**

Fire Chief Eberle suggested that three more employees be added to the Fire Department staff and that all three should be captains with paramedic certification. Currently the Town has EMTs and there are a number of things they cannot do to save a life. It could start out with one captain/paramedic. The Town also needs a fire chief.

Town Manager Mabery stated she feels that the fire district will be formed. However, staff does not feel the Town should wait to improve staffing. Staff recommends that one forty-hour-per-week captain with paramedic certification be hired. This is a step in the right direction. As far as the fire chief, her recommendation is to continue to contract with

Verde Valley Fire District if a new fire district process is being done. If a fire district is not pursued again, then staff recommends hiring a fire chief.

There was discussion of contract and employee costs.

Town Manager Mabery stated that a captain should be hired regardless of the district formation status.

**WORKSESSION – A worksession with the Clarkdale Fire District Organizing Board to discuss the initiation of a new process to form a Clarkdale Fire District**

*Dan Guernsey*, chair of the previous organizing board, stated he is here to ask the Council to proceed with another fire district attempt. He stated that the law allows them to go right back to starting a new process. He expressed his disappointment that the first attempt failed. He noted that the entire process must begin over. Changes to the new district boundaries allowed the inclusion of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. However they cannot be taxed for the service. Currently the Nation contracts for this service with the Town.

Mr. Guernsey noted that he met with several individuals in order to understand what happened. He found out that they could have had the county check the petitions as they went along. If they had known this they would have been able to resolve the problems before it was too late. Due to their criticism of the information given to them by the County, the County has made some changes in the process. The ARS printout the County gave them was not current. Because of the number of positive results they received, he is confident about redoing the effort. They approached 1,000 residents. He reported that they were led to believe that they needed property owners, but they needed residents. He continued to explain some of the issues he discovered that led to the district not being formed. He noted that many of the properties are vacant lands outside of subdivisions and have out-of-town owners. He stated that the committee needs a budget because they will need to contact many of these people by mail, which will be expensive.

There was discussion of how many property owners

and valuation was needed to meet the criteria.

Mr. Guernsey stated he calculated that if the mailer costs .37 each, he anticipates needing \$500.

Town Manager Mabery noted that by law the Town couldn't provide the funds.

Mr. Guernsey noted that the voter list printout cost \$104.00. The volunteers are ready to go through the process and some new people have stepped forward.

There was discussion that the Firefighters Union did not support the district, but they also did not oppose it. This was because they did not feel the proposed new district budget was high enough.

Mr. Guernsey noted that the process needs to be done as quickly as possible because if a property owner signs it then sells his house before the petitions are officially submitted, the name will not count.

There was discussion of the timing of starting the process again and of funding needs. Mayor Von Gausig suggested the board consider the volunteer services of Becky Von Gausig, who has run several successful campaigns. Town Manager Mabery noted that the Town does not determine who is on the organizing board, as it is a separate entity. There was discussion of the possibility of the Town providing some in-kind help to the board. Town Manager Mabery reiterated that the Town as an entity cannot promote or use public resources for a campaign.

**Jim Elmer**, member of the board, thanked those who helped. He feels the support of the council and residents was good. He noted he would volunteer to do the process all over again. He stated how supportive he is of forming the district. He commended Mr. Guernsey for all the work he put into the effort. He stated he does not feel that raising the \$2000 will be difficult and that what is most needed is volunteers.

Mr. Guernsey clarified how bonding is done and Town Manager Mabery noted that the town attorney advised that legally the Town could post the bond. There was discussion about the bonds and how the Town is reimbursed and about the proposed fire district budget.

**Fred Hayman**, 1415 First North, noted he was on the board from the beginning. He stated the beneficiaries first and foremost are the citizens, and secondly the fire district itself. The third beneficiary is the Town financially. The major thing that he sees is needed is the Town's support as much as is allowed by law.

Councilmember Williams noted all the costs and taxes a person pays and stated that to receive emergency services when you need them is not out of line with what is happening with inflation. There was discussion about funding the bonds for a new attempt at forming a fire district. It was noted that the board intends to pay the Town back for both of the bonds if they are successful in forming the district.

The consensus of the Council was to post the bond.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business before the Council, and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

**APPROVE:**

---

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

---

Joyce Driscoll, Town Clerk

**SUBMIT:**

---

Charlotte Hawken, Admin. Assistant